coffee producing countries including India. since 80% of coffee produced in the country is exported, the industry is mainly dependent on the global coffee prices. Due to low coffee prices prevailing in the international markets, there has been a slight decline in the export of coffee during 2001-02 as compared to the previous year.

(b) As the notification has been issued very recently, it is too early to assess the actual impact of the same on the small coffee growers.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Entry of ONGC in retail sector

*237. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC has applied for authorisation to set up retail outlets to sell petrol and diesel in certain States;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) the details of the States in which ONGC propose to set up its outlets?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) government have granted the authorisation to Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) for marketing transportation fuels through 600 Retail Outlets, in the first phase, primarily in three States *i.e.* Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Payment of salary to the employees of NPCC

*238. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the employees of various units of NPCC Ltd., have not been paid salary for the last several months; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to disburse the arrears of salaries?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) and (b) NPCC Ltd. is a sick Public Sector Undertaking and has been incurring heavy losses since 1989 onwards due to high employment cost, surplus manpower, interest burden on loans, low recovery of outstanding dues from project authorities and insufficient generation of funds. Consequently, many units of the Corporation have become non performing units. The Government is providing Non Plan Assistance to NPCC Limited for meeting the statutory liabilities for payment of salaries/ wages. For this purpose, till date a total sum of Rs. 95.84 crore has been released by the Government to NPCC Ltd. Besides other remedial measures, a revival plan for the company has also been formulated.

Duty Exemption Entitlement Schemes

*239. SHRI YADLAPTI VENKAT RAO:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether rampant misuse of scheme of Duty Exemption Entitlement Schemes (DEES) and Export Promotion Capital Goods (DPCG) have been detected; and

(b) if so, the efforts made to contain commercial frauds in bilateral/ multilateral trade to push up exports?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Some misuse of these schemes has been noticed. Safeguards have already been inbuilt in each Export Promotion Scheme to prevent abuse/misuse.

Whenever a new *modus operandi* comes to light, Customs field formations and preventive agencies are alerated to prevent recurrence and take necessary action in terms of Law.

Fake companies offering jobs

*240. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a number of fake companies are coming into existence in the country every other day and collecting